

ECHO IRELAND

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Irish Radio Transmitters Society
March/April 2006

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

Next deadline June 17th



IRTS President
Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS

New IRTS President

Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS was installed as the new President of IRTS at the 2006 Annual General Meeting held at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork on April 23rd.

Finbarr was first licensed in 1974 while living in Dundalk and he was Secretary of the Dundalk Radio Society for several years. He moved to Cork City in 1980 and has been involved in various roles in Cork Radio Club since then. He served as Chairman and Secretary of the club over the years.

He is a member of the DX Century Club and holds many operating awards. He was a pioneer of amateur television operation in Cork and was also an officer of the Cork Repeater Group.

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CW Field Day
June 3/4th
Garbally College
Ballinasloe.

Operators wanted...
Contact Contest Manager EI8IU
on 086-2514822

VHF/UHF Field Day
July 1/2nd 2006

Radio Theory Examination
June 28th
(see page 10)

Cork Rally - Blarney
September 24th 2006

Waterford Rally
October 15th 2006

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9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	086-3909373	<i>ei9fbb@oceanfree.net</i>

News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB

Jose Manuel Valdes Rodriguez, YV5LIX

Renowned DXer and contester Jose Manuel Valdes Rodriguez, YV5LIX, died on 21st April while participating in the YX0A DXpedition to Aves Island in the Caribbean.

57-year-old Jose - better known simply as Joe - suffered a heart attack at 04.00 UTC shortly after the YX0A Dxpediton got under way. Two physicians accompanying the Dxpediton team were unable to resuscitate him.

The Aves Island DXpedition has reportedly been given permission to use the memorial callsign YX0LIX until the DXpedition ends on May 1st to commemorate Jose's life. The Aves Island DXpedition was organised by members of the Association of Radioamateurs of Venezuela and the Grupo DX Caracas. Jose was the DXpedition's digital modes coordinator and was planning to concentrate on digital modes during the last few days of operation.

Dubus Magazine

IRTS has been appointed as the Irish distributor for the DUBUS Magazine, a quarterly magazine for VHF, UHF and Microwave enthusiasts.

This is a publication that no serious VHF/UHF/Microwave DXer should be without.

It is mailed directly to subscribers from the publishers in Germany.

The annual subscription remains unchanged at €22.00 for 2006 and should be forwarded to:

Dave Moore, EI4BZ,
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

IRTS Elected Committee Members 2006/07

President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS
Vice-President Paul Martin EI2CA

Committee

Thos Caffrey EI2JD
Joe Fadden EI3IX
Dave Moore EI4BZ
Peter Grant EI4HX
Paul O' Kane EI5DI
Fergus Millar EI6IB
Sean Nolan EI7CD
John Ronan EI7IG
Seamus McCague EI8BP
Brian Canning EI8IU
John McCarthy EI8JA

Silent Key EI9BTB Tommy Griffin



When Tommy Griffin died suddenly earlier this year, South Dublin Radio Club lost one of its best known and best loved members.

First licensed in 1984, his interest in amateur radio was more around experimenting with equipment than actually operating.

Tommy's interest in the equipment side of radio brought him to numerous radio rallies and he particularly looked forward to the annual trip to Llandudno in North Wales; at these rallies, he darted from dealer to dealer, haggling over the price of everything and enjoying every minute of it.

He was an avid collector of what some of us might call "junk", but which to Tommy were real "gems" that could be used to make something useful.

At one stage, he put a working PC together from these gems, no doubt purchased for half-nothing.

Needless to say, the family home was stacked high with radio equipment, vying for space with another of his many interests, model railways.

Tommy was heavily involved in the local community, and served as chairman of the Ballyroan Community Centre, which houses the South Dublin Radio Club QTH.

His working life was on the engineering side of the ESB.

He is survived by his wife, Frances, and by two daughters and five sons.

May he rest in peace.

Silent Key EI8FE Gerry Fitzgerald



Gerry Fitzgerald passed away peacefully on Thursday April 28th at his home in Strand Street, Skerries, Co. Dublin.

Gerry was born in Bantry, County Cork and worked, until taking early retirement, with the Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs, later to become Telecom Eireann.

He was a founding member of the Skerries (North County) Radio Club and served as club secretary for 20 years during which time he was also the CW instructor. He was instrumental in getting club members under canvas for an annual field day for many years and was meticulous in his preparations. Gerry was central in all activities carried out by the club and was a mentor to all who ever visited the club premises in Skerries.

Gerry served as IRTS secretary for several years in the late 80's and was involved when the IRTS committee meetings moved from Baggot Street in Dublin, first to the Naas Road and then to Portlaoise to facilitate members from the country.

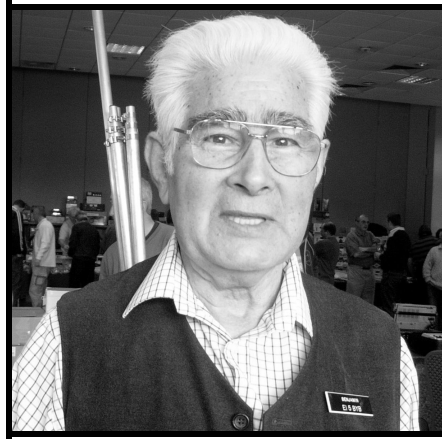
He was also very involved with the International Police Association Radio Club and was very active on their weekly nets for many years. He always claimed to be the only non-Garda member of the club.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Breeda and children Susan, Garvan and Clodagh.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

May he rest in peace.

Silent Key EI5BYB Benjamin Rodriguez



Benjamin died on 11th March 2006 aged 78.

A Spanish national, he came to Ireland in 1973 and made it his home. He brought with him a wealth of technical knowledge and experience which he made available unstintingly to those who sought his assistance.

In the 1984 he moved to Co. Wicklow where he was a founding member of the Wicklow Wireless Society. For many years he was a driving force in the Society and a huge source of help and encouragement to those new to, or inexperienced in, Amateur Radio.

Benjamin suffered from multiple medical problems over a period of some 20 years. He never allowed these inhibit his enthusiasm for his current projects nor indeed was he ever heard to complain.

His difficulties with the English language were legion, but they were usually overcome with the same cheerfulness and enthusiasm he brought to all aspects of his life.

He moved to Co. Waterford about seven years before his death and his loss to the Wicklow Society was very great.

However, in death he returned to the Garden County where he was buried in Callary Churchyard in the presence of his many friends.

Sympathy is extended to his widow Brigid and his two sons Miguel and Benjamin Jr.

May he rest in peace.

Silent Key EI2EAB John Godkin

Its hard to talk about John in the past tense. He was a valued member of the Tereneure Radio Club. He was always eager to help anyone who was interested in radio. He knew how to capture the imagination of the listener, John and myself had a common interest in television. John was a retired TV service engineer and we spent many an hour talking about everything and anything to do with TV. A true gent. We will miss him very much. He has involved in many of our projects. I remember how he got information on ATV for my late father the good old days.

He will be always be in our thoughts We count ourselves lucky that we had the pleasure of having John as a friend. May he rest in peace.

Our hearts are with his family at this very sad time no words can express the sorrow felt by all our members and to let his family know that they have our full support.

Rest in peace John
73 for the last time! Over and out.
George EI2CPB

South Dublin Radio Club

At its meeting on Tuesday night May 2nd South Dublin Radio Club presented the prizes for two of competitions the club hosts.

DXCC 2005 Competition

The first was for an internal club competition for working as many DXCC entities as possible for the year 2005 (DXCC 2005 Competition).

The winner was Nicki Mullally EI9JF with a score of 229 entities.

The runner up was Mark Condon EI6JK with a total of 129. Nicki received a gift cheque for €100.

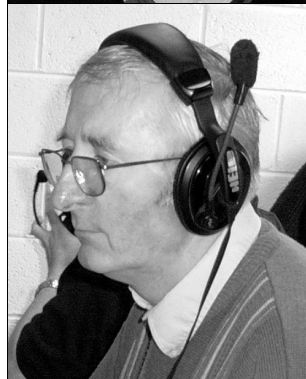
Spring Challenge 2006

The second competition the SDR Spring Challenge had a number of entries for both the Open and Restricted sections.

Mark EI6JK was the winner of the Open section and Brendan Kilmartin EI0CZ was the winner in the Restricted section. Both received a gift cheque for €50. Many thanks to all who took part especially Tom Kelly EI2AJ who always makes a gallant entry.

All are welcome to take part in the next SDR Challenge next February: rules can be had from the club Secretary or soon from the club's new web address: SouthDublinRadioClub.ie.

Pictures: Top: Nicki Mullally EI9JF
Middle: Brendan Kilmartin EI0CZ
Bottom: Mark Condon EI6JK



Silent Key EI2BL

Fr. Pacificus Jennings OFM. Cap

We are very sorry to report on the death on Saturday March 18th of Fr. Pacificus Jennings OFM. Cap EI2BL of the Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, Donegal.

In the late 1960's and early 70's, Fr Pacificus was based in Raheney in Dublin and attended the Morse classes being run at that time in 91 Lower Baggott Street.

He would have been well known to many of the older hands in the Dublin area where he obtained his licence in 1970.

To his brother Anthony and to the Community at the Capuchin Friary, Creeslough, we extend our deepest sympathy.
May he rest in peace

Silent Key EI2CS

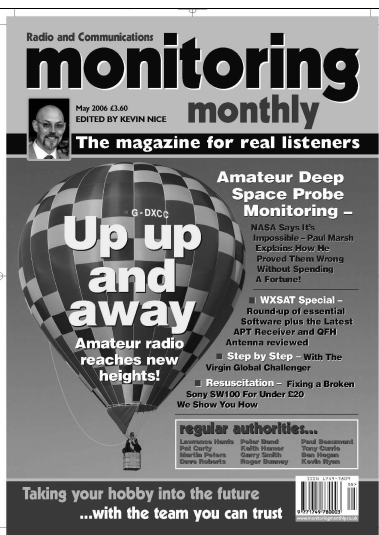
Rex Harrison

Rex Harrison EI2CS of Beaumont, Dublin died Thursday April 13th after a long illness.
My he rest in peace

Silent Key G3ZQS

George Longden

George G3ZQS of Darwen, Lancashire passed away on 25th April last. George was well known to many as the founder of the FISTS CW Club



Aidan Murphy EI2HW

The May front cover of **Monitoring Monthly** features Aidan Murphy EI2HW and his new Ultramagic Hot Air Balloon (Twister -G-DXCC) (EI2AIR) and is complimented by a 3 page feature article he wrote inside the magazine.

Aidan operates the only aeronautical mobile station in Ireland. He has also been published in QST, the journal of the American Radio Relay League.

Monitoring Monthly is available in Easons (Ireland) every month and all good newsagents across the UK and Ireland.

Fingal Radio Club's New Chairman



Fingal Radio Club new chairman Gerry Birkhead EI9DZ seen here being presented with his official chain of office by outgoing Chairman Chris Yeates EI7AAB.

Gerry took over from Chris during mid term due to work commitments Chris has taken on for the remainder of the annual term.

Incidentally, the chain of office seen here, worn by Gerry has been fashioned in true ham style. The chain itself being salvaged from the garden, with the official disk/medallion bearing the chairman's details having started life as a CD-ROM disk with artwork and text duly applied in the appropriate way.

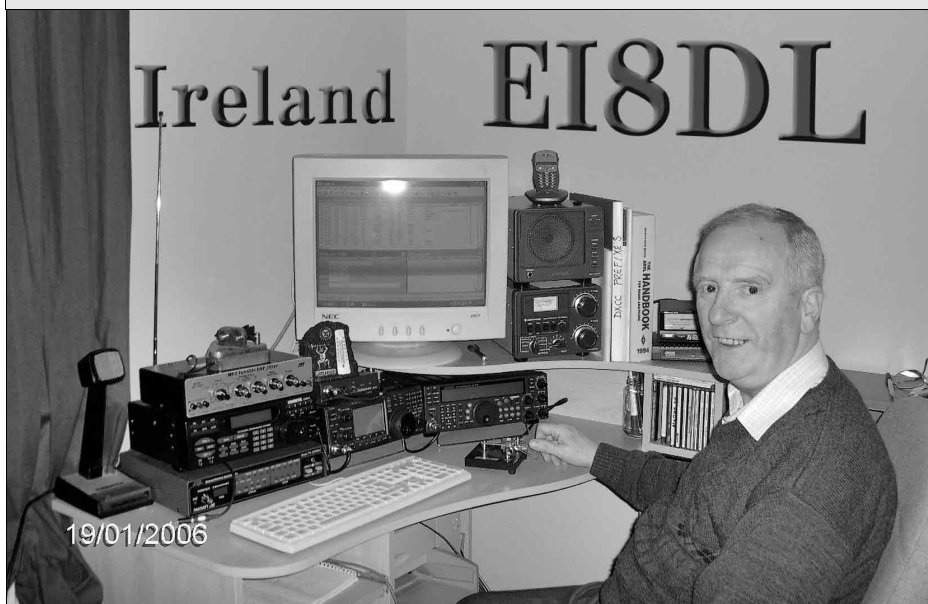
Full marks to club treasurer Sean Linehan EI7CV, the chief designer of this somewhat unusual chain of office.

New Morse Testing Kit Presented to IRTS by EI9DZ

The IRTS was recently presented with a brand new Morse testing kit by Gerry EI9DZ. Housed in an aluminium case, the oscillator and Morse key are of high quality and will be of great benefit to candidates sitting future Morse tests.

The Society thanks Gerry for his very kind gesture.

Shack Picture - EI8DL



Silent Key

EI2HA

Michael Boyce

Michael Boyce EI2HA of Duncormick, Co. Wexford died on February 13th 2006.

Michael, licensed in 1989, had a keen interest in radio all his life and was probably better known on the other side of the Atlantic than here through his daily skeds with the late WB2KOY on 20, 15 and 10 metres.

Michael was into things technical from an early age and while only 17 he harnessed wind power which lit his house and powered a radio. He had electric light for the first time in his home on the night that Churchill declared war on Germany. Two years later he used a water wheel on the river to generate electricity.

In the early 60's he set up his own light engineering business and designed, manufactured and repaired farm machinery.

He built his own transmitter in the mid-60's and with a friend operated a pirate station for several years.

He had a great love of nature and bee keeping was one of his many interests.

Music was a major part of Michael's life and over the years was involved with many bands and groups. Amongst these were the Ambrosetown Ceili Band, the Duncormick Ceili Band and the Blue Star Orchestra, whom played 'warm-up' to the Clipper Carlton.

He travelled to London in 1981 to play with the Carne Mummars and to Wales in 1981 with the Dungeer Mummars.

He organised music lessons for fiddle, accordion and tin whistle in Ballymitty Hall with his friend the late Markie Murphy..

He was involved in forming the first junior Comhaltas in Co. Wexford and went on to compete in many competitions over the years. He played all over the county at concerts, parties etc. with his two life long friends Dick Hillis and Michael Byrne.

Michael was married to the late Sarah in 1952 and they went on to have seven children, three boys and four girls and 18 grandchildren.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Nellie, Stasia, John, Ted, Jim, Mary and Catherine.



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to another edition of HF Happenings, and what an eventful and interesting 2 months it's been, what with the many contests and DXpeditions that have been QRV lately.

3Y0X

Starting off with some good news this time, the recent 3Y0X operation, February 3rd to 19th 2006, has already been approved by ARRL HQ for DXCC credit; the lucky ones just have to wait a few more weeks for the QSL's to start arriving. QSL cards are already back from the printer and to date, all direct applications have been sorted into the appropriate categories and are presently being cross checked with their own logs before they start printing the QSL labels.

Their QSL manager, Bob N2OO, feels that this is the most efficient method to ensure that the deserving get their card accurately and easily.

Conditions were relatively good during the period, but however, their signals were very weak on most openings here in EI, and in fact for most of EU. A huge pat on the back to anyone who actually worked this unique, but special acknowledgement must be paid to John EI7BA, who really did 'EI' proud by working them on every band, except for 10M, and I'm sure, that if an opening had occurred, he'd have caught them there too. Well done!!

They logged 86,888 QSO's in total while being on the Island, not far off their target of 100,000, as they were delayed by several days due to weather conditions. There were 26,449 unique callsigns in their log, with several stations having worked them on every band & mode, and 115 stations worked them more than 20 times. There were 23,769 European QSO's in the log. Again, well done to every 'EI' who made it through.

YX0LIX - Aves Island

Still QRV at time of print is, The Aves Island team, who everyone knows at this stage, is operating as YX0LIX. The original callsign of YX0A, was only QRV for a number of hours, and as the team were on route aboard the Venezuelan Navy ship signing YX0A/MM.

On the 21st April, at 0400Z, 57 year old Jose, YV5LIX, one of the operators, suffered a heart attack, and didn't survive. The 2 physicians that were present on the DXpedition were unable to resuscitate him. Licensed since 1987, he was a well known and much respected HF/VHF contester and DXer, and was a legend on RTTY.

However, after been QRT for 16 hours, the team were QRV again, as YX0LIX, in memory of Jose. He was the digital operator of the team, and the team now consists of 10 operators, YV5ANT, YV5OHV, DL2GG, AD6TF, YV2IF, YV5LMW, YV5MHX, YV5NCZ, YV5SSB & YV5ZV. They are all running high power and very strong signals can be heard on most bands. However, they can be quite slow in returning calls, as they are suffering from severe RFI from their own military base radio equipment, which is blanking out during transmissions. Despite this, they still appear to be keeping up with the demand, as at present, over 34,000 calls have been logged. As a result of Jose's passing, they will not be doing any digital modes, as this was Jose's area of expertise, the team feel that they are not experienced enough and are not up to scratch on

the operating of the equipment, so again, no digital modes will be operated on this trip. They send their log via a very slow HF packet, and are keeping in touch via Satellite phone with the mainland, but it may take a while for the entire log to be completed, even after the operation. Hope plenty 'EI' callsigns made it into the log.

The recent DXpedition to Benin, proved to be quite successful, however, a lot of criticism was to be heard on the bands by EU operators. The 'TY' team operated mainly WARC bands and quite a lot of digital modes. It appears that whenever there was an opening to Europe on SSB, the team decided to look only for North America. However, a high QSO count was obtained, thus giving a 'New One' to many first timers from this rare one.

More or less, immediately after the operation, two of the operators, Andrea IK1PMR, and Claudia K2LEO, began making plans for their trip to 'VU4' Andaman & Nicobar Islands, for their Hamfest. This was a unique occasion as many many stations - 68 in total, made it, to demonstrate Amateur radio to the Indian Government, in a bid to promote radio and its importance. It is hopeful that future operations will be allowed to operate from this 'Rare One' and callsigns can be easily obtained. All operators had to firstly obtain a standard 'VU' callsign initially and throughout the operations, had to sign 'VU4AN / call '. Operations ran from 1830Z 17th April to the 1830Z April 25th. Here is a list of all operators that had permission to operate:

VU3CHE (K4VUD/HS0ZCW)	VU3RYE (DL9GFB)
VU3FRK (DL4KQ)	VU3RYF (DL9MS)
VU3GMM (XU7ACC)	VU3RYG (SP3CYY)
VU3JLW (AA4NN)	VU3RYH (WA6UVF)
VU3KIE (OH2KI)	VU3RYI (JR3MVF)
VU3NZB (DJ8NK)	VU3RYJ (W0GJ)
VU3NZC (SP3DOI)	VU3RYM (DL5OAB)
VU3OHA (W3UR)	VU3RYN (N6TQS)
VU3OHB (OH2BH)	VU3RYP (VK8FR)
VU3PLM (IZ1GLO/K2LEO)	VU3SIB (F4EGD)
VU3RIC (DJ5IW)	VU3SIC (F5CWU)
VU3RVC (DK5WL)	VU3SID (DJ7ZG)
VU3RWN (SP3GEM)	VU3SIE (DK1BT)
VU3RWO (K3LP)	VU3SIF (DL3GA)
VU3RWP (JH4RHF/OE1ZKC)	VU3SIG (DL7AFS)
VU3RYB (DL7DF)	VU3TLY (IK1PMR)

VU2BL	VU2GHX	VU2MTS	VU2VPR
VU2BMB	VU2GL	VU2MY	VU2WDP
VU2BVB	VU2GRM	VU2MYH	VU3DHD
VU2CKD	VU2JJS	VU2MYL	VU3HDP
VU2CMK	VU2JMA	VU2MYN	VU3LGX
VU2DBP	VU2JOS	VU2MYV	VU3LMS
VU2DH	VU2JVA	VU2NNA	VU3MUV
VU2DSV	VU2LFA	VU2PKV	VU3NOJ
VU2FI	VU2LIC	VU2RBI	VU3RNU

QSL routes for this operation are still very confusing at the moment, it is expected that the majority will be QSLed via

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

their homecall but further information will be published in the near future.

The Daily DX have an excellent log search, which gets updated regularly and includes the majority of all major DXpeditions-
<http://www.dailydx.com/dxpeditions.htm>.

All operations took place from Port Blair; the capital of the Andaman's, no operations took place this time around from Nicobar. Again, plenty activity from this rare one, so again, I hope many 'EI's' made it through, as signals were indeed quite audible on most bands.

Just before going to press, good news arrived just in time for this issue, that as a result of this operation there are now 2 permanent licensed amateurs in Port Blair.

It is assumed that 'VU4' will be heard quite regularly on the bands from now on.

Statuses of the licences have not presently been disclosed, so it's not certain what their privileges, frequencies, power limits, etc.etc. are as of yet, but history has definitely been made, and the DX community owes a lot to NIAR, whose manpower and financial support has made this happen.

Developments are already under way for 'VU7' Lakshadweep, but as negotiations took over 14 months regarding 'VU4', it may well be 2007/2008 before 'VU7' comes into effect.

April 11th to 16th, Western Sahara was QRV as S01R, with a team of 10 operators; EA2RY, EA5RM, EA5BJ, EA5XX, EA5FX, EC4DX, EA5KM, IN3ZNR, EA5RD & UY7CW. They were running four stations, all high power, into SteppIR antennas. This one can be QSLed via EA5RM. An on-line log is up and running at www.s01r.com, and there are also some nice photos from this operation.

YM125ATA is a special callsign for TA3J and might appeal to any prefix hunters out there. This is to mark the 125th birthday of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic. This will be QRV from April 23rd to November 10th, so no immediate panic yet.

This can be QSLed via TA3YJ, direct or via bureau.

R3K is another interesting callsign that was aired lately. This was a special activity that was operated from Russia's Korolev Rocket & Space Corporation, to mark the 45th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first human space flight on April 12th, 1961. This can be QSLed via RN3DK, direct or via bureau.

Another one for prefix hunters to watch out for is one very close to home as the Limerick radio club is celebrating its 60th anniversary and has been issued with the special call of EI60LRC. This call is valid until the end of the year and can be QSL'd via Alan, EI8EM.

Yet another prefix to watch out for is 'LY15A' commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Independence of the republic of Lithuania. This one to be QSL'd via LY2ZZ.

From June 29th to 13th July, expect to hear 'big signals' from C9 Mozambique, as a DXpedition will be operating High Power stations with Yagi's from the beach town of Bilene. Apart from running all bands/modes HF- 160M to 10M, they also intend to put on a serious attempt of VHF/UHF operations as 50 & 144 MHz meteor scatter, 50, 144 & 432 MHz EME,

are all on the agenda. More update information on this one should be available for the next issue.

A separate operation is also planned around the same time frame also from Mozambique, but this one will be operated only by Tom, WW5L, single op, signing C91TA.

Another one to watch out for is an all out IOTA DXpedition from 'FO' French Polynesia.

'OC-027'-Marquesas, 'OC-050'-Australes, 'OC-046'-Tahiti, 'OC-067'-Huahine, 'OC-066'-Tuamotu & 'OC-063'-Gambier, will all be operated by Yves F6CTL throughout his one month visit, beginning June 18th 2006.

More good news for IOTA hunters, F6ELE Fidier, plans to be active from Carabane Island 'AF-078' Senegal, from June 9th to 19th, while yet another French op, F5XX Bernard, will be operating from Brescou Island 'EU-148' starting May 25th.

'EU-006' Aran Islands, were QRV again lately, this time by 2 English ops, Michael G7VJR & Martin G3ZAY, were signing 'EI / Homecall' over the first weekend in April. Well done guys on a good operation.

TB0DX operating 800W and beam antennas from the rare IOTA AS-123 is QRV with 2 stations since 26/04/06 until 01/05/06 operating all bands. This has been organised by OKDXF who have a nice web page up and running regarding this operation: http://www.okdx.cz/e_index.php. This operation is QSL'd via OK2GZ either direct or via bureau.

An up and coming DXpedition is in the early stages yet, but 2 German ops, have made applications to local authorities to operate from 'TN' Congo, sometime this year. Baldur, DJ6SI and Franz, DJ9ZB, are expecting this application to take some time, so therefore it could be several months before anything more develops. More on this one as it happens.

Conditions on the HF bands are definitely on the way up, and the DX is still out there, despite the fact that we are on the minimum of the solar cycle, however, 15m, 20m and 40m, still appear to be the main run bands. Various reports and predictions can be heard most days regarding this, with one having a better opinion than the next, but if you are 'ready and waiting', you WILL work the DX when it happens, as it happens.

A few extracts from my log are as follows, using a TS850SAT, 400 watts and a TH3 Yagi.

HC2GT, AP2IA, 3Y0X, VU4AN/VU3SIG, OX3KQ, EL2PM, C56W, J68AM, AX3MCG, all on 20m SSB.

YX0LIX, ZS4U, HC8N, TR8CA, BG7JLR, all on 15m SSB, and T77EB, CO8LY, WP4U worked on 40m into a 1/2 wave G5RV with 100 watts.

Declan EI9FVB, running a IC756 Pro2 and MQ24SR 2 element beam, had a busy 2 months working: V47KP, 9Z4CT, SX5P, J79DX, 3V8BB, HH4/K4QD, J75RZ, 8P5A, PJ2T, FM5FJ, all on 20M SSB. XR45TA, 6W/HB9JOE, J6DX, HI3TEJ, R1ANF, ZP5AA, 6W1RW, all on 15m SSB and 4N500ZZ, HG2006F, LX8M, YW4M, all on 40m SSB into a 1/2 size G5RV also.

Robbie EI2IP, is making a nice appearance on the bands using an FT847 and 80m double Zepp antenna @ 30' logging the following: VK6JJ, V25OP, CT3MD, 4O3AA, JW/F8DVD all on

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20m, VE9PLB, T99D on 40m, C56W, V31NO, JR1IQL, on 17m and VE1ZZ on 160m top band.

Mark EI6JK, running a TS850SAT and a Carolina Windom, was very active on 40m logging some rather nice ones; C5DXC, 9K2CQ, TF60IRA, ZP5ZD, CE4WJK, CX8CM, LU2QC, UK8LWC, TI5WLR, XF3PAS, HC8N all on 40m SSB.

ZV0F, EL2PM, WH2DX, JV800DA, AP2IA, ZL2TEM, HL2AEJ, YI1W9HLM, 9V1DE all on 20M SSB, TZ9A on 17M and HC8N on 15m.

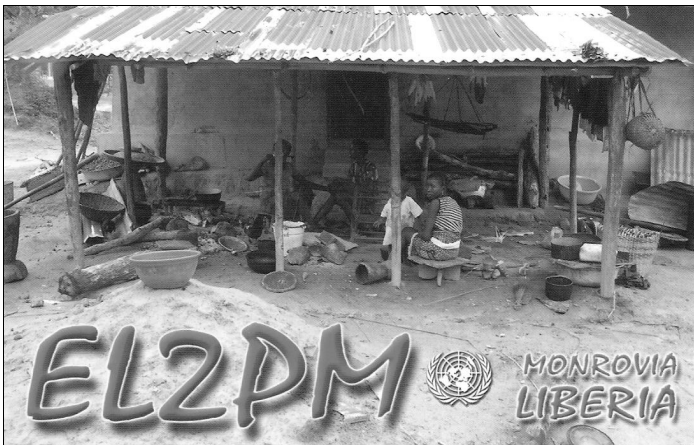
Thos EI2JD, using an FT1000Mk5 field and a G5RV antenna worked some very nice DX indeed. Extracts are as follows: C56W, VQ9LA, YI1OM, CP6XE, TB0DX, all on 17m SSB. HK5CPH, VU4AN/VU3OHA, 5Z4ES, 9G5OO, C56JHF, HZ1SS, J73CCM, TB0DX, EL2PM, S01R, made it on 20m SSB.

3B8MM, TY5WP, VU3RIC, 3DA0VB on 40m CW while 8P6JD, EX8AA, J5TRJ & ZD8Q followed on SSB.

80m SSB showed some interesting special event stations; AX3GAMES, R4G, S01R & DR0SOCCER & 15m SSB netted ST2M & YX0LIX.

30m CW shows EI0MAR (Howth Martello Tower via EI5EM) and 160m top band logged SV5/SV1QN.

It's nice to see so many EI's working EL2PM, Patrick Molloy. Pat, like us, is also an 'EI' and his home call is **EI5IF**. He will be returning on the 15th May after being in Liberia since November 2005 as part of the UN QRF (Quick Reaction Force). To date, he has been very active on HF in his limited spare time. Well done on a great operation Pat.



Many thanks to all who submitted their log extracts, apologies for all those annoyance calls, but it's nice to hear what other 'EI's' are working.

As you can see from the above, a lot of 'EI' activity on most of the bands and some rather nice DX is being worked. Keep up the good work.

Special thanks to The Daily DX for reference for some of the information used.

Please keep those logs coming, so they can be mentioned in the next issue.

73 'till then.

Dave EI9FBB

ei9fbb@oceanfree.net

IRTS Course Guide Launched

The new CD Rom course guide was launched at the AGM of the Society in Cork. As you know, a small group in the Society had been working on this project for some time past. A power point presentation on the course guide, the CQIR contest and the Southern Africa DXpedition was running during the rally and generated great interest.

Many of those present acquired copies of the course guide.

A demonstration of the course guide was held prior to the AGM and was attended by about 25 including representatives from 7 clubs.

Free copies of the disk were provided to the club representatives.

The course guide is in web page format and covers all of the items on the HAREC syllabus on which the new multiple choice examination is based. There are 400 slides with almost 200 illustrations and diagrams included in the guide. The guide is intended to assist those organising classes, those studying on their own or in small groups for the examination or as a useful refresher for those already licensed.

Information on the guide may be obtained by e-mailing course@irts.ie The guide is free but there is a € charge for registration, post and packaging and e-mail support.

The availability of examinations on a regular basis under the arrangement negotiated with ComReg under which the IRTS is responsible for organising, setting and correcting the examination seems to have generated renewed interest in experimental radio.

The course guide will be of great benefit to anyone working to obtain an Experimenter's Licence.



International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend August 20/21st 2006

This years International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend will be held from 0001 on Saturday August 20th to 2359 on Sunday 21st.

Last year, 382 lighthouses and lightships were registered for the event. Three Irish stations were registered.

Members of the Kerry Amateur Radio Group activated Cromwell Point Lighthouse on Valentia Island in County Kerry.

South Dublin Radio Club travelled to Donegal to activate Inishowen Lighthouse and Limerick Radio Club travelled to operate at Tarbert Lighthouse in the Shannon estuary.

Maybe we will hear a few more EI stations next August.

Full information and registration details available at: <http://illw.net>

New EU QRP Discussion List

There is a new email discussion list for QRP in Europe! The EUQRP List.

Anyone wishing to join should send a blank email message to: euqrp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

www.irts.ie

IRTS is pleased to announce that its web site has been re-designed and extended. The new site - still at the same address www.irts.ie - includes a number of additional features that should be of interest to existing members and to those who want to know more about amateur radio.

For existing members, we have, for example, a new "Contests" section, a wide range of links to other amateur radio sites and many new files available for download.

As a matter of interest, the downloads section includes the revised IARU Region 1 HF Band Plan, which came into effect on 1st January 2006, and which should be of interest to existing operators as well as to those studying for the theory exam.

Especially for newcomers and for anyone just browsing around, the Home Page incorporates a description of amateur radio and of the role of IRTS, while there is also a page on the site explaining what is involved in getting an experimenter's licence.

A feature of the site is the inclusion of photographs of radio amateurs in action; these photographs change on a daily basis.

Joe Ryan EI7GY, who designed the new site, said "Web sites are not set in stone, and can be easily modified and extended. Please let me have your suggestions for additional features, and also let me know if any of the content is out of date or otherwise needs to be changed".

Commenting on the new site, the Society's President Finbarr Buckley EI1CS, said that the launch of the new site was an important development for the Society, which should benefit existing members, encourage others to take up the hobby, and raise the profile of the Society.

He referred to the fact that the web is now an important communications medium for many of us and, fortunately for the Society, a very effective and economical way of keeping in touch with our members and encouraging others to take up amateur radio.

Please play your part and keep the Webmaster Joe EI7GY updated with any relevant information. He welcomes suggestions and feedback.

CQIR - Ireland Calling: Preliminary Announcement.

In 2007 the IRTS celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1932. As part of its jubilee celebrations the Society is organising an International Radio Contest, "CQIR - Ireland Calling".

For this contest, references to Ireland mean the island of Ireland and its off-shore islands - both EI and GI.

CQIR is a once-off event with a difference - overseas entrants with 75 or more QSOs have the opportunity to win a trip to Ireland.

CQIR is a 24-hour, single-operator HF CW/SSB contest on the weekend of 29/30 September 2007. As this is the fifth full weekend in the month, there is no clash with any established event.

CQIR is a celebration of both the IRTS Jubilee and the "Irish" amateur-radio community worldwide.

It's where the Irish, at home and abroad, work the World - and where those of Irish descent identify themselves by including their ancestral county in the exchange, for example: County Limerick, County Antrim etc.

Here is a summary of the rules. Full rules and county codes will appear on www.irts.ie.

Prize Draw: For each and every 75 valid QSOs logged, entrants will qualify for one entry to a prize draw. Two prizes will be awarded, the first for entrants operating from outside Ireland, and the second for entrants operating from Ireland.

i) Air travel to Ireland for two people, with accommodation for one week in Kinnitty Castle, Co. Offaly.

ii) A weekend for two in New York City.

Entrant are "Irish" if:
1 They operate from Ireland, or
2 They were born in Ireland, or have a direct ancestral link to Ireland - with no time limit.

Anyone whose partner/spouse qualifies under this section can be Irish too.

All other entrants are "World" entrants.

Exchange: Entrants operating from Ireland send a serial and their county code. For example : 021 MAY
Irish entrants outside Ireland, known as "Overseas Irish", also send a county code - representing the most recent county resided in by themselves, their partner/spouse, or their direct ancestor.

In place of a serial, Overseas Irish send the most recent year they, or their spouse/ancestor as relevant, left Ireland to live or work overseas - 1849, 1978, 2004 etc. This should be the same for all QSOs.

Example of an Overseas Irish exchange : 1966 ANT

World (non-Irish) entrants send a serial only.

Points & Multipliers: CQIR is a world-wide "everyone works everyone" event, with 2 points for SSB QSOs and 3 for CW.

Points are doubled for QSOs with Irish stations - those giving a county code in accordance with the rules.

Multipliers are Irish County Codes - a maximum of 32 per band/mode combination.

Free software will be provided to support CQIR.

73,
Paul Martin EI2CA
P.R.O. - IRTS.
paul@comma.ie



www.kinnittycastle.com

IRTS SHOP

For many years IRTS has provided a Book Sales service to members and non-members alike. The service was provided for the most part through the IRTS Stand at Rallies around the country although a mail order service was also available. In recent years there has been a fall in the number of Rallies and at the same time the number of new entrants to the hobby has been in decline. As a consequence, the turnover on Book Sales has fallen, while the costs have remained the same or increased somewhat. The annual accounts of the Society have shown that the Society has been running the service at a loss while the annual inventory contains an element of obsolete titles.

On a number of occasions over the past three years the IRTS Committee has discussed this problem and sought to find a solution that would ease the pressure on the Society's accounts while continuing to provide a Book Sales service to members. No firm conclusions were reached on those occasions although it was decided to run down the stock of books.

During the past year, in the course of discussions with our sister Society RSGB, a suggestion was made that RSGB would be willing to set up a marketing arrangement to cater for IRTS members. It was further proposed that IRTS members would qualify for the 10% discount on purchases made already available to RSGB members. These proposals were carefully considered at a number of IRTS Committee meetings and it was decided that they represented the best way to continue the provision of a service to our members while easing the financial pressure on the Society.

It is now over one month since RSGB set up a new website www.irtsshop.com exclusively for the use of IRTS members. The full range of RSGB books and materials will be listed on the site, priced in Euros and available at a 10% discount. In due course IRTS materials will also be listed on the site but orders for these materials will be directed back to the IRTS Book Sales Manager and filled from our own resources.

IRTS is extremely pleased with the new arrangement and is very appreciative of the help and support received from RSGB in getting the website and the systems up and running. Members are encouraged to make the most of the new facility which will offer a greater selection of books and materials, quick turn round and, of course, 10% discount!

IRTS will continue to have a presence at Rallies around the country but, once existing stock has been disposed of, will confine itself to selling IRTS materials, seeking new members and renewing existing memberships. See advertisement on back page.

Radio Theory Examination

The next Radio Theory Examination has been arranged for Wednesday 28th June 2006. As with previous examinations this one will be held in the ComReg offices at Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lr. Abbey St., Dublin 1 commencing at 2 p.m.

Those wishing to sit this Examination should apply in the first instance to Sean Nolan EI7CD, 12 Little Meadow, Pottery Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin who will provide further information.

The Examination Fee is €50 with concessions for students and repeat applicants.

It must be stressed that for security and other reasons all applicants must register in advance and unregistered candidates arriving on the day will not be accommodated. The closing date for registration is Friday June 16th.

Cork Radio Club Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Cork Radio Club took place at Wilton Park House on Monday March 13th.

Reviews and reports of the club's activities over the past year were presented. The outgoing chairman Stephen EI6JA in welcoming everyone thanked the members for their contributions during the year especially those who got involved in the Capital of Culture Award scheme. During the year, the club changed premises from Wilton Park House to the SMA Hall in Wilton and the club lost the services of a very efficient QSL manager when Chuck EI4HS returned to live in the U.S.

John EI3EC the club Hon Vice President presided over the election of officers and committee for the coming year and the following were elected:

Chairman.	Dave Moore EI4BZ,
Hon. Sec.	Dave Deane EI9FBB,
Treasurer	Dick Bermingham EI6HH

Committee members:

Declan Horan EI9FVB
John O'Sullivan EI3EC
Frank Mason EI6EVB
Stephen O'Leary EI6JA

CW Field Day at Garbally College in Ballinasloe

This years CW Field Day will be held over the weekend of June 3/4th and once again IRTS is inviting groups and individuals to travel to Garbally College in Ballinasloe where portable stations can be set up under ideal conditions.

The event is once again hosted by the Shannon Basin Club and they will be defending their restricted section title on home ground but should be under pressure from a South Dublin Radio Club team making their first appearance in this contest.

EI4BZ will be making his 21st consecutive appearance at CW Field Day and as usual invites operators to join him for the weekend.

Further details from the Contest Manager Brian Canning EI8IU. (see page 2)

AMSAT-UK Announce New Satellite Transponder Project

AMSAT-UK is delighted to be able to announce its participation in the SSETI ESEO satellite project.

ESEO – The European Student Earth Orbiter is a satellite planned for launch in late 2008 into a Geo-stationary transfer orbit similar to the initial orbit of AO40 and to those planned for Eagle and P3E.

In December 2005 two AMSAT-UK members were invited to attend a SSETI Workshop at the European Space Agencies ESTEC facility in the Netherlands.

This workshop, which lasted a week, had over eighty students in attendance from more than twenty universities around Europe.

The involvement of the AMSAT-UK team with the project was confirmed at the Workshop and the team were elected as “Honorary Members” of the SSETI Association in appreciation of their work supporting the previous SSETI Express project.

The prime communications system for ESEO is being developed by the University of Wroclaw in Poland and will operate on “commercial” S-Band space frequencies. It will provide all the usual telecommand and telemetry facilities and use standard ESA CCSDS packet communication techniques.

ESEO also has a need for a redundant communications system – one that can operate in the event of a primary system failure but can also function satisfactorily if/when the spacecraft is not in its intended earth-pointing mode. This is where AMSAT-UK are planning to assist.

The current project calls for a unit that can receive telecommands from earth on UHF (435MHz), transfer those to the OBC via a CAN bus. Additionally, it must transmit telemetry and mission data to the ground on S-BAND (2.4GHz). We are planning to use omni-directional antenna systems so the data rate will necessarily be quite low although output power will be approx 9 watts.

When in orbit, it is likely that the student experiments will be completed within a few weeks/months from launch after which time it will become available as a linear U/S mode transponder.

The ESEO spacecraft will have a rectangular structure and a mass of 120kg. The solar panels will be deployable and steer-

able while the propulsion system will use Nitrogen gas. The 50 kHz wide mode U/S transponder will be switchable from a conventional linear design to a fully digital design based on DSP techniques using the G6LVB STELLA firmware. Two UHF canted monopoles on opposite ends of the spacecraft will be used to receive signals on U band. The S Band output of 9 Watts will feed two turnstiles or quadrifilar helices. As well as the transponder, the unit will also provide 400 bps BPSK telemetry in AO40 format.

Obviously we cannot expect the transponded signals on the ground to be as strong as we enjoyed from AO40 but they should provide worldwide communication similar to the earlier AO-13 project.

The AMSAT-UK team includes G4DDK, G7OCD, G6LVB, G0MRF, & G3VZV who were responsible for the S-Band transmitter on SSETI Express.

This new opportunity to participate in this exciting venture is very much a result of the impressive support that the amateur fraternity around the world gave to the SSETI Express project – so thank you and congratulations!

We can also report the good news that a student team from the Technical University of Budapest has been added to the SSETI programme to work on the on-board Electrical Power System. This team, under the leadership of Dr. Andras (Bandi) Gschwindt, HA5WH, has masterminded similar systems on AO10, AO13 and AO40 all of which have proven to be extremely successful.

More news will be published as soon as it becomes available through the usual channels. At the time of writing the SSETI ESEO web pages are not up-to-date but new information is being added regularly, so please check <http://www.sseti.org/>

There will be a presentation on the satellite and transponder at the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium which will be held from Friday 28th until Sunday 30th July at the University of Surrey, Guildford.

AMSAT-UK produce a quarterly newsletter "Oscar News" which is full of Amateur Satellite information. For membership details contact the secretary Jim Heck G3WGM
Tel: +44 (0)1258 453959
E-mail: g3wgm@amsat.org
Website: <http://www.uk.amsat.org/>



International Museums Weekend

17th & 18th June 2006

<http://www.ukradioamateur.co.uk/imw/>

Ireland and Wireless Telegraphy: “Wave lengths of time”

Ita Marguet, December 2005

Michael’s Sexton’s book **MARCONI: The Irish connection** is a recent contribution to the prodigious work and legacy of Guglielmo Marconi that has long been recognised in Ireland and beyond. Its foreword recognises ... *the knowledge of an expert in electrical engineering with a deep appreciation of what Marconi’s technical experiments and achievements meant to Irish society... and... that Marconi was more of a genius at spotting the potential that could be harnessed from the application of existing knowledge than he was an original inventor.*

Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was enabled in his development of wireless telegraphy by the pioneering work and inventions of illustrious scientists, physicists and mathematicians in Ireland and beyond. Amongst them were Nicholas Callan, George Francis Fitzgerald and George Johnstone Stoney, whose contributions through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries contributed extensively to the precursor of today’s advanced technology, including the wireless computer, now widely in use into the twenty-first century.

Nicholas Callan (1799-1864)

The first Irish contribution to wireless technology was that of priest and inventor, Nicholas Callan. Born in Darvar, near Dundalk, Co. Louth, his initial education was at an academy in Dundalk run by a Presbyterian clergyman. He entered St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, as a clerical student in 1816 and remained at this seminary for most of his life. In his third year he studied natural and experimental philosophy under Dr. Cornelius Denvir, who had an interest in electricity and magnetism and who introduced the experimental method into his teaching. After ordination in 1823 Callan went to Rome where he was awarded a doctorate in divinity in 1826. He was appointed to the chair of natural philosophy at Maynooth in 1826, and he remained in that post until his death.

In Rome he became acquainted with work that had been carried out by Luigi Galvani (1737-1798) and Alessandro Volta (1745-1827) both pioneers in the study of electricity. Callan’s principle claim to fame is as inventor of the Callan induction coil, developed well before Ruhmkorff in 1851 to whom it is usually attributed. Much of his original coils, batteries and other apparatus, and his textbooks, are housed in the National Science Museum, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

George Francis Fitzgerald (1851-1901)

George Francis Fitzgerald, physicist, was born in Monkstown, Co. Dublin. Educated at Trinity College Dublin (TCD), he was Erasmus Smith professor of natural and experimental philosophy there. He was a widely admired leader of the Maxwellians (including Larmor, Lodge, Heaviside and Hertz), acknowledged as the first physicist to comprehend the full significance of Scottish physicist, James Clerk Maxwell’s (1831-79) announcement of the electro-magnetic theory, applying it to light, telegraphy, etc., known as Maxwell’s equations. Fitzgerald’s contribution in the three seminal papers of 1879 showed that he perhaps more fully realized the significance of this theory than the inventor. He was admired as a source of ideas and criticisms for others and as a passionate advocate of scientific research and technical education.

George Johnstone Stoney (1826-1911)

Fitzgerald’s uncle, George Johnstone Stoney, physicist and mathematician, fundamentally advanced the electromagnetic theory and is best known for introducing the scientific term ‘electron’ to science in 1891. Born near Birr, Co. Offaly, he was educated at Trinity College Dublin (TCD). He was Professor of natural philosophy at Queen’s College, Galway (1852-7), fellow of the Royal Society (1861) and first Boyle medallist of the Royal Dublin Society (1899). Stoney had wide interests, publishing on optics, molecular physics, the kinetic theory of gases, and music.

Radio Museum at Cork City Gaol

With its own history, the “**Radio Museum Experience**” (incorporating the RTE Museum Collection) features as part of the Cork Heritage Trail. Situated in the unlikely setting of the former Governor’s house at the old Cork City Gaol (1824-1923), the Museum was opened in 1924. It deals not only with the early days of Irish and international radio broadcasting but also with the impact of its invention on all our lives covering early pioneers of Radio with Morse code, radio waves and early broadcasting sets. Situated in the old Female Gaol in Sunday’s Well, Cork Radio went on air for the first time on 25 April 1927. The 8.00 p.m. show featured the Christian Brothers choirs and the sound of the bells of Shandon and Cobh Cathedral. The broadcasting studios are fully restored and a fine display of radio artefacts from the earliest days are now on permanent display there.

The **Radio Museum** has space dedicated to **Guglielmo Marconi**, including his family, life and work. There is a short video with Marconi relating early life at his father’s estate, his education and first experiments through his registered patents, business, technical and academic achievements, honours of national and international recognition, and award of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909, that was shared with Karl Ferdinand Braun. Marconi’s decision to work and develop his technology in Ireland was based on the obvious advantage of the country’s position on the Atlantic seaboard. From 1916 he was exploiting short waves for more efficient transmissions over longer distances that diminished the importance of Ireland’s position.

Father of Radio

MARCONI: The Irish connection, by Michael Sexton brings a new work to the vast corpus of professional and other literature about the pioneer of radio communication and inventor of the first practical system of wireless telegraphy. Marconi’s death in Rome on 20 July 1937 was marked with a two minute silence on the radio waves worldwide to honour the man who had become known as the “**Father of Radio**”.

Marconi Day is celebrated on 25 April, the date of his birth in 1874.

Note: Acknowledgement is given to all information and material used in the preparation of this article. An earlier text entitled **Wireless Telegraphy: Switzerland and Ireland** Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) by Ita Marguet, appeared on-line at Irish Emigrant News, No.891, 01 March 2004, and in **Echo Ireland Journal of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society**, March/April 2005.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Annual General Meeting April 23rd 2006

Hosted by Cork Radio Club at Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society's 74th Annual General Meeting was held over the weekend of April 22/23rd at the Vienna Woods Hotel in Cork and was hosted by Cork Radio Club.

The weekends activities kicked off with the annual dinner on Saturday night. Guests at the dinner were the Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Deirdre Clune and her husband Conor, John Breen from the Department of Communications and Derek O'Reilly and his wife Veronique representing the Communications Regulator, ComReg.

Sixty guests from all corners of Echo India enjoyed a fabulous meal and a very sociable evening.

John Breen in his address dealt with the threat to bands currently allocated to experimenters and amateurs worldwide and pointed out that lack of activity on any band could lead to a reallocation to commercial users who are continuously seeking additional frequency allocations.

This particularly applies to allocations above 1 GigaHertz.

AGM

Sunday's Annual General Meeting was well attended and the highlight was the handing over of the presidential chain of office to our new president Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS. Tributes were paid to the outgoing President Sean Donelan who has completed his three years in office. Sean also served as Treasurer for many years. He will still be with the committee as an ex-officio officer for the coming year.

The meeting also marked the departure of the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer.

Both Noel Walsh EI2JC and Brendan de hOra EI3GV are leaving the committee after years of dedicated service and deserve our sincere thanks for their contribution to the success of the Society in recent years.

The new committee was elected as follows: President Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS, Vice President Paul Martin EI2CA and committee members Thos EI2JD, Joe EI3IX, Dave EI4BZ, Peter EI4HX, Paul EI5DI, Fergus EI6IB, Sean EI7CD, John EI7IG, Seamus EI8BP, Brian EI8IU and John EI8JA.

The Vienna Woods proved an excellent venue for the weekend activities and we would like to thank the traders and patrons who turned up to make it such a success.



John Breen EI7BV, Department of Communications: Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Deirdre Clune: Sean Donelan EI4GK, IRTS President: Derek O'Reilly Commission for Communications Regulation.



Committee Report to the Annual General Meeting of the IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork. 23rd April 2006.

Committee Meetings

Six Committee Meetings were held during the year. Five meetings were held in the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise. One was hosted by the Cork Radio Club in their premises in Bishopstown on the eve of the Blarney Rally in September.

Although primarily concerned with long-term policy issues, committee meetings are also valuable to ensure that on-going difficulties and opportunities are aired in an open and supportive atmosphere. The committee would like to remind clubs of their opportunity to send representatives or observers to these meetings.

Membership

The total membership of IRTS at the end of December 2005 was 960. This compared to a membership number of 985 at the end of 2004. Our numbers have been dropping slowly over the past couple of years in common with most of our sister Societies. It is good to see the majority of new licensees joining us but it is important that as many as possible, new and old, join with us in order to have a strong voice to represent and protect our common interest.

ComReg

The Society maintains regular contact with ComReg. Meetings are held as necessary to discuss matters impacting on Amateur Radio. Telephone, email and written contacts help to resolve different issues which occur from time to time.

I am pleased to report that after many years of discussion with ComReg the difficulties with the Theory Examination were finally resolved during the year. Following the Society's successful tender, we were awarded the contract to conduct the Theory Exam for an initial period of three years. This was the culmination of long and difficult negotiations. Special mention should be made of the efforts of Sean EI7CD, Stephen EI6JA, and Joe EI7GY who not only had all the processes in place to enable us to conduct the exam, but were constantly mindful of the need to protect the Society's interests.

Such was the state of preparedness that the Society was able to conduct the first exam less than three weeks after signing the contract on 26th May 2005. A further exam was held in January 2006 and plans are already underway for the next one on 28th June.

In response to a Consultation Paper issued by ComReg, the Society made submissions regarding new licensing procedures and I am pleased to report that most of the Society's submissions were accepted by the Commission. Indeed, ComReg complimented the Experimenter community on the number and quality of the submissions made.

Morse Code

Following the decision of WRC 2003 to eliminate the manda-

tory Morse Code requirement for access to the HF Bands, national regulators have so far failed to achieve a common position on treatment of the Code.

To protect its position vis a vis other administrations, Comreg continues to require experimenters to pass a 5 wpm Morse test before issuing a CEPT Class 1 licence with a two letter suffix. A small number of candidates still undergo this test.

IARU

At international level, National Societies throughout the world work together for the overall good of Amateur Radio under the auspices of a representative democracy, the International amateur Radio Union.- IARU. The Society was represented at the 20th IARU Region 1 Conference in Davos, Switzerland by Sean EI7CD and Finbarr EI1CS. There, they were joined by 160 other delegates from 58 member Societies. We are pleased that Ireland can take its place as an equal with other Societies and have an input into the policy direction and decisions of IARU Region 1.

AREN

AREN training and preparation is continuing on an on-going basis where a group of very dedicated experimenters have taken it upon themselves to prepare in the best possible way in order to be able to provide and assist with emergency communications in times of disaster. AREN nets and exercises are held regularly to ensure that a pool of radio operators proficient in emergency communications will be available if, and when, disaster strikes.

IRTS was represented by John EI2GN at the inaugural IARU Region 1 conference on emergency communications held in Tapere in Finland last June.

Clubs

There are 31 Club Members of IRTS. A resurgence in club membership and activity would be a very welcome development, particularly as we prepare for our Jubilee year in 2007.

The Society has prepared a comprehensive Theory course which is now available on CD with the objective of assisting clubs conduct Theory classes. Clubs are now encouraged to get classes up and running to ensure that people who are interested in taking up the hobby are given every assistance and encouragement to do so.

Publications

ECHO IRELAND was published six times in 2005. This publication continues to be the face of the IRTS delivered to your door. It can be a very onerous and time consuming task for the editor to maintain a consistently high standard in each issue. The Committee appeals to members to submit news items, articles, photos and other information which may be of interest to

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

fellow experimenters and listeners.. At the same time we would like to thank the regular contributors for their efforts.

Book Sales

The Society is pleased to announce that we have recently completed an agreement with the RSGB to provide an on-line book shop for IRTS members. All items are priced in Euros, with a 10% discount available for members. There is a link from our website or you may go directly to www.irtsshop.com

IRTS will continue to have a presence at all rallies in the future but, once existing stocks are exhausted, sales will be confined to IRTS specific items such as Log-Books, Pin Badges, ties and maps etc. and to provide a contact point for membership applications and renewals.

QSL Service

Tony Baldwin EI8JK our out-going QSL Manager recently reported that in the past year he had despatched over 123 kilos of parcels to foreign QSL bureaux. We estimate this to be in excess of 43,000 QSL cards.

This must go some way to debunking the idea that EIs are poor QSLers!

We again thank Tony for his Trojan work and would ask members to follow the rules in the Handbook regarding the sorting of cards in order to assist Tony in his task.

On the in-coming side we also have an excellent network to ensure regular distribution of members' cards. Mike EI2CL regularly collects many parcels of cards from abroad, together with other mail addressed to P.O. Box 462. Following an initial sort by Mike, the cards are passed to Pat EI2HX who distributes the cards to the sub-managers. Again, our thanks are due to Mike, Pat and all the in-coming sub-managers - John EI7FAB, Thos EI2JD, Jim EI3DP, Paul EI5DI, Rory EI4DJB, Dave EI7JK, Brian EI8IU and David EI9FFB.

Radio News

The Radio News is broadcast weekly on HF and by clubs on VHF from many locations. Judging by the call-ins with reports, these broadcasts continue to be very popular with experimenters. It can be a difficult job producing an interesting script every week. We ask that members, both individuals and clubs, submit items for the News as often as possible. Our thanks to Mark EI7IS for his work on the Radio News and to the many newsreaders who give such great service week in, week out.

Awards

The Society's WEIC Award seems to be difficult to obtain, as no new awards were made during the past year. The WAI scheme has many

enthusiastic supporters but declining band conditions on 40m seem to have affected participation levels. The Society's trophies which are awarded both for Contests and for Service to Amateur Radio will be presented at the conclusion of the AGM.

Contests

The Society directly organises six contests each year - CW, SSB and VHF Field Days together with Spring and Autumn 2m Counties Contests. This year the sixth contest was added. In January we introduced for the first time the 80 metres Counties Contest. This featured both fixed and Portable Sections in both SSB and mixed SSB/CW modes. This Contest proved extremely popular with almost 50 entries received and over 100 EI stations active during the event.

Participation in our traditional Contests is also up, which is a welcome change after a slight decline last year.

Jubilee

Next year, 2007, is a Jubilee Year for the Society. The past 75 years have seen enormous changes in the world since IRTS was founded in 1932. Wireless was still a relatively new science back then and while the technology, equipment and methods have changed in the meantime, Amateur Radio remains strong on the values of friendship and goodwill throughout Ireland and the world. We look forward to celebrating this in 2007.

Members Input

The society could not operate without the input of its members. In the first instance they help to maintain it financially through their membership subscriptions. Secondly, the many hours of unpaid, and often unseen effort undertaken by the band of volunteer helpers ensures that the day-to-day affairs of the Society run smoothly. The Committee expresses its thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the running of the Society during the year and looks forward to their continuing contributions in 2006.

Noel Walsh EI2JC
Hon. Secretary



Fr. Finbarr EI1CS, Incoming IRTS President, Cllr. Deirdre Clune Lord Mayor of Cork and Sean Donelan Outgoing President IRTS.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2005

Presented to the Annual General Meeting at the Vienna Woods Hotel, Cork on April 23rd 2006.

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year 2004 for the approval of the meeting. The Society's accounts show a deficit of €2984.00 for the year and this amount has been subtracted from the General Reserve. The amount of the General Reserve is in excess of €30,000. The Society, for an organisation of its size, remains in a strong position financially.

This is the second year in a row that the deficit has been recorded. The unusually high deficit for this year is due to three main reasons: 1) a non-recurring cost of €1,380.00 for printing the year book. 2) an increase of over €1,000.00 for the printing and distribution of our Newsletter and 3) a decision by the committee to progressively write off the present value of the book stock. This will be achieved by a reduction of 50% in the value of stock for this year and the remaining 50% next year. The decision to increase the subscription this year will more than cover the deficit caused by the day to day running of the society.

Our Society has always had the objective of providing its members with the highest level of service for the lowest practicable subscription. I am pleased to say that this situation has not changed. It can only be maintained by members of the Society carrying out the work on a voluntary basis. An increase in the number of members who would be willing to undertake work on behalf of the Society would be appreciated.

The annual subscription is the life blood of the Society and I would like to thank all those who paid their subscriptions, in particular, all who pay the subscription on receipt of the first advice. These prompt replies reduce the cost of stationery and postage, as subsequent reminders are not required. One further way to help decrease our overheads and the work required for collection would be the greater use of the Direct Debit system. Again I appeal to those with a bank account to consider paying by this method, it has a big advantage both for the Society and the participant. I have the appropriate application forms available at any time.

The pursuit of subscriptions and issue of news letters would be very difficult were it not for the work of Joe Ryan who developed and continues to maintain the database of the membership, many thanks Joe. My thanks also goes to our two voluntary auditors who advise me and make sure the books balance.

Signed:

Brendan De hÓra EI3GV, Hon. Treasurer.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2005

	2004	2004	2005	2005
Fixed Assets				
Equipment		Nil		Nil
Prize Bonds		£89		€89
Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.		£754		€754
Current Assets				
Stock for Re-sale	€3,688		€1,918	
Cash on Deposit	€29,664		€30,045	
Cash at Bank	€1,664		€1,317	
		€38,016		€33,280
<u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u>		€38,859		€34,123
		=====		=====
Represented by:				
General Reserve		€3,808		€30,824
IARU Conference Reserve		€5,051		€3,299
		€38,859		€34,123
		=====		=====
Dublin ARC Disbursements Account				
Balance remaining for disbursement at 31 st December 2003		€243		€243
Transfer to C/A				243
				NIL
Jubilee Fund (held in current account)				
Donation				830

Signed

Brendan De hÓra EI3G, Hon. Treasurer

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

**Income and Expenditure Account
for the Year to 31st December 2005**

INCOME	2004	2005
Subscriptions	€19,800	€20,130
Donations	€17	€30
Advertising	€370	€60
Book Sales	(€126)	(€1,979)
Investment Income	€389	€29
Morse Tests	€102	€51
WEIC, Euro Certs & New Certs	€181	€66
Sundry Income	€38	€0
	-----	-----
	€20,471	€20,886
	=====	=====
 EXPENDITURE		
Newsletter Printing	€7,060	€7,564
Newsletter Postage & Delivery	€5,100	€5,661
Postage & Telephone	€776	€75
Yearbook Printing	0	€1,380
Radio News	0	0
QSL Service Outwards	€1,000	€800
QSL Service Inwards	€110	€02
Stationery & Admin.	€1,038	€58
P.O. Box Rental	€220	€220
Insurance	€55	€19
Committee Meetings	€75	€12
AGM Costs	€47	€200
IARU Dues	€1,081	€86
Licence Fees	0	€20
Depreciation	0	0
Conference Reserve	€1,270	€1,270
Bank Charges	€294	€281
Trophies	€252	€82
Website Costs	€1,001	€481
Misc.	€366	€71
Unpaid Subs	€25	€88
	-----	-----
	€21,469	€23,870
	-----	-----
 Deficit for Year	(€98)	(€2,984)
	-----	-----

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

**Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts
for the Year ended 31st December 2005**

1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account. Subscriptions covering any period after 31st December 2003 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

2. General Reserve

Balance as at 1 st January 2005	€33,808
Subtract deficit for the year 2005	€2,984

Balance as at 31 st December 2005	€30,824
	=====

3. Equipment

All Equipment in the possession of the Society has been fully depreciated.

4. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price (€2.29 per share). The Market Value of these shares on 7th January 2006 was €5,534 (330 shares @ €16.77)

5. Cash on Deposit

	2004	2005
Irish Life and Permanent plc.		
	€29,664	€30,045

6. IARU Conference Reserve

	2004	2005
Balance on 1 st January	€5,051	€5,051
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account		€1,270
Sub Total		€6,321
Less Expenses 2005		€3,022

Balance on 31 st December 2005		€3,299

Auditors Report

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

Thomas McLoughlin EI400

Ger Gervin EI8CC

International Marconi Day at the Howth Martello Tower EIOMAR

Saturday 22 April was International Marconi Day (IMD) This is an annual event celebrating Marconi's birth on 25 April 1874. It is organised by the Cornish Amateur Radio Club. Amateur stations operating from locations with historical connections to Marconi are granted Award Station Status.

The Howth Martello Radio Group operated EIOMAR as an award station from the vintage radio museum in the Martello tower.

The tower was used by the Marconi Company in 1905 to conduct wireless telegraphy signal strength experiments with HMS Monarch as she sailed to various locations in the Irish Sea.

This event is not a contest, but certificates are awarded for working award stations. The Howth Martello station was set up and ready to go the previous evening and was on the air by 0730 UTC on IMD.

Fergus, EI6IB kindly provided his Icom IC7400 for the event. The internal automatic ATU had no difficulty matching the 9 metre fishing pole antenna (with ground planes) on all bands.

Despite conditions not being great, almost 100 stations were worked, including several other award stations. Contacts were made on SSB and CW and EIOMAR was in great demand.

Not being a contest, there was time to chat and have "genuine" QSOs with all stations. All present took time to operate.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and relaxing event. The station went QRT at about 1640 UTC and a short meeting of the Howth Martello Radio Group then took place. This was followed by QSYing to the Abbey Tavern for a lovely meal which was a fitting conclusion for a most enjoyable and rewarding day.

QSL cards have already been sent through the Bureau for all confirmed contacts.

The operators on the day were Tony EI5EM, Fergus EI6IB, Joe EI4FV, Eamonn EI2CHB, John EI7JG and Colm EI8GL.

The group wishes to thank Pat Herbert, the curator of the museum, for facilitating the IMD operation.

EIOMAR/Museum website is www.qsl.net/ei5em/museum.html

The IMD site is <http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/crac.htm>

Tony EI5EM



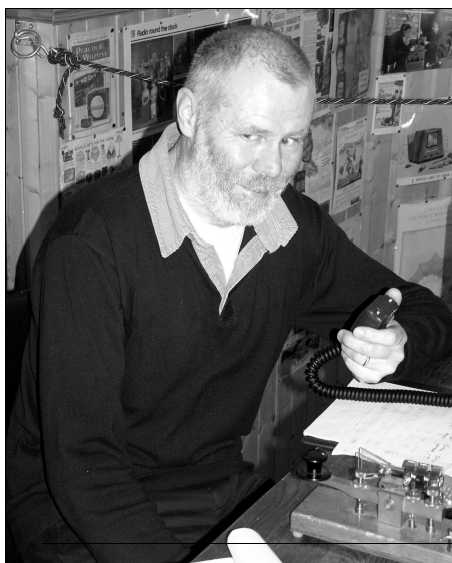
John EI8GL



Fergus EI6IB



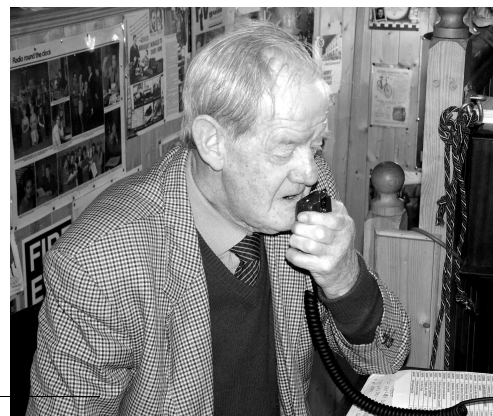
Mike EI8???



Eamonn O'Connor EI2CHB



Tony EI5EM



Joe Dillon EI4FV

Shannon Basin Radio Club Sprint Challenge 2005

The Shannon Basin Radio Club would like to thank all who were involved and participated in this year's radio challenge which was held last November 2005 and this being the 3rd year, attracted the biggest entry to date.

We would hope that this year's challenge will attract new entries and we invite you all to participate in this year's Radio Sprint which will be held on the 6th of November 2006.



Dave EI4BZ being presented with the Lough Ree perpetual Shield for CW by Brian EI8IU, SBC Chairman.



The Lough Derg Perpetual Shield for Short Wave listening being presented to David Connaughton EI-1512



The Lough Allen perpetual Shield on SSB being presented to Pat O'Connor EI9HX by SBC Chairman Brian EI8IU.

Spring 2m Counties Contest from South Kerry

Each Easter I'm usually in South Kerry for the long weekend. It's hardly the best place to compete in the 2 Metre Counties contest from, being at the South-West extremity of the country but I usually make the effort to give out a few points.

In past years I've tried operating from Coomaneaspig and Dromgour in Portmagee which are accessible by car but few contacts were made. This year I loaded the backpack and trekked up Knocnadobar near Cahersiveen.

Knocnadobar located at V506 845 stands 690m tall.

The XYL joined me for the hike though she did carry some of the kit I assured her that I did not invite her along for that purpose!

The ascent took 1 hour 25 minutes in glorious sunshine with a fresh breeze from the Northwest. Once on top we had barely enough time to take in the views when the sunshine turned to mist and the breeze turned to wind.

Setting up the Diamond X-50 vertical antenna on a short pole with the VX7R HT didn't take long.

In 10 minutes of operating, I had 7 stations in the log from counties Kerry, Cork, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary. I did hear more stations but failed to work them.

After 20 minutes at the top the XYL had enough of the cold so we packed up and bailed out.

It was my first time getting on a mountain for the Counties contest. A couple of watts go a long way when you're at that elevation. It was great to hear so many other stations bring the simplex channels to life in a corner of the county where VHF amateur activity is virtually non-existent.

While it's only a minority of entrants that go portable for the event, those of us that do really appreciate the effort from those who turn on the rig at home or in the car to give out some points.

The next round is on the 27th August from 2 pm to 4 pm local time with full details and rules available on the IRTS website. www.irts.ie

We will be listening out for you!
Conor EI4JN



South Dublin Radio Club Portable Activity Weekend



Tom EI7HT, Jim EI4HH, Nicky EI9JF, Alan GI0PCU, Kyle EI2JO and Daniel EI9FHB. Brendan EI3GV, Mike EI3DY, Philip EI8FMB and Larry (SWL).

A group of hardy individuals set out for Trooperstown Hill on the afternoon of Saturday 11th February to fulfil a long planned field operation. The group met in Larch and proceeded to find the spot where they had operated from on a previous occasion.

After scouting around for a while the caravan of jeeps, trailers and cars eventually found a spot. By this time the weather had deteriorated and a large tent, generators, radio, fuel, antennas and various other items of equipment were unloaded in strong winds and rain. With all hands on deck the station and accommodation were soon ready, and Tom EI7HT had a welcome pot of tea for the group.

Plans for the antennas had to be curtailed due to bad weather conditions.

The station consisted of the club's FT920 transceiver, feeding a 40m vertical with 8 radials. Conditions were relatively good except the bands were crowded with the Dutch PACC and the CQWW contests.

The operation was casual and laid back with contacts made on SSB and CW and lots of chat and some warm beverages late into the night. Eventually the station was abandoned in favour of sleep and a warm tent.

Sunday morning was somewhat drier but radio conditions had deteriorated.

Alan GI0PCU and Kyle EI2JO fried up a mountain or rashers, sausages, eggs and black and white pudding.

The station was kept going until about 1400 when it was decided that discretion was the better part of valour and the camp was struck.

Despite conditions on the ground and on the bands a good time was had by all. The intrepid crew consisted of Tom EI7HT, Jim EI4HH, Nicky EI9JF, Alan GI0PCU, Kyle EI2JO and Daniel EI9FHB.

Helping hands were given by Brendan EI3GV, Mike EI3DY, Philip EI8FMB and Larry (SWL).



Limerick Radio Club AGM

The 2006 AGM of the Limerick Radio Club was held on Thursday 16th February 2006 at the Limerick Institute of Technology.

The following officers and committee were elected for the current year:

Officers:

Dermot Gleeson EI2GT - Chairman
Michael Kingston EI2IX - Hon. Secretary
Tony Condon EI2AW - Hon. Treasurer

Committee:

Alan Cronin EI8EM
Albert Lahoud EI9IY
John Edgeworth EI6IW
Michael Watterson EI9FEB

Members of the Limerick Radio Club are QRV as EI60LRC until the end of the year to mark 60 years of the club.

Activity is on 80 to 10 metres.
QSL is via EI8EM.

SR4TEN Beacon

The first Polish 10m band beacon was activated at 10.15 UTC on 6 March 2006. SR4TEN is located at the office of the MK QTC Magazine in Suchacz (JO94RG).

It operates with the power of 3 watts on 28.203 MHz.

If you copy the beacon, please mail your report to: qtc@post.pl

Sylwester, SP2FAP

IRLP Usage

It has recently become necessary to change the Southern Ireland Repeater Network IRLP access code as the result of a number of stations misusing it.

The node is again available. If you would like to have access to the node, please contact repeaters@searg.com to get the new code

Please Note:

It is essential that when using the IRLP system to first "speak your callsigns" then dial the relevant node using DTMF tones.

It may be necessary to change the code from time to time in order to ensure correct use of the node.

So please observe the above procedure.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group AGM 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the South Eastern Group took place on February 22nd 2006

The following committee was elected:

Chairperson: John McCarthy EI8JA
Vice Chair John Ronan EI7IG
Secretary Mark Wall EI7IS
Treasurer Michael Hoban EI5DCB
PRO Nicky Madigan EI3JB

Committee: Eddie Steadman EI9DJB,
Egidio Gianni EI9EQ
Martin Evans EI8FFB.

Meetings take place at 8.00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month at the Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford.

www.searg.com

Mark Wall EI7IS - 087-6302026.

John McCarthy EI8JA - 087-9437500.

Tipperary Radio Group EI7T/P 2m Spring Counties Contest 2006 on Slievenamon



AFRI75

IRTS 75th Jubilee DXpedition 2007.

Following the visit by Frosty K5LBU over the Limerick Rally weekend, the following is an update on the proposed DXpedition to Southern Africa.

Having looked at the various options and assessed them from all points of view, i.e. licensing, accommodation, operating site, availability of non-radio activities etc etc. It was finally agreed that Swaziland, 3DA0, was the preferred option.

Travel will still be to and from South Africa (Johannesburg) with a three hour overland journey to the site.

The stations will be located at the Hawane Resort, details of which can be found on their website www.hawane.co.sz

It is likely that we will have sole use of the hotel. In any event, the owner who is Canadian, is very ham radio friendly and will facilitate us regarding antennas etc. Take off is good in all directions, unlike some earlier expeditions to 3DA0, where the path to Europe was very difficult.

Fifteen operators and five spouses/partners have expressed an interest. It is possible that some of these will drop out, and that others will join as the details get finalized. An ideal total number (including partners) would be about fifteen.

A good number of the provisional team expressed an interest in a contest operation. Therefore, the dates were put back slightly to include the CQ WPX SSB contest.

A possible itinerary would be: Depart Dublin Wed 14th March, arrive Jo'burg morning of the 15th, and travel direct to site, set up and be on air for Paddy's Day! Normal operation and various 'tourist things plus Dev Aid project until the contest on 24th and 25th, rest on 26th, travel to Kruger National Park for two

day safari 27th and 28th and return to Dublin on 29th. Those wishing to do an extra week in South Africa would tag on a week before or after depending on their requirements.

African DX Safaris will provide two complete 1Kw HF stations, two 70 foot towers with 2 log periodic antennas for 14 to 28 MHz, a 40m sloping switched dipole array, 70 foot vertical for 80 and 160m with commercial beverage receive antennas for LF bands. 6m and 2m EME stations also available if requested.

By moving the dates back we should avoid the end of the rainy season. Temperatures should be in the range 16c (nighttime) to 27c. See the website for current weather info. www.weather.com click on 'world' and type in Swaziland, then click on Mbabane

We have been told that there is lots to keep everybody happy. A look at the hotel website indicates that they also cater for children. We will have our own air conditioned minibus and driver with us for the whole trip. This will give us flexibility for the Aid project and other activities.

A few people have expressed concern as to the level of 'toughness' of the expedition. We did not want to simply go to a 'tourist' venue and miss the real African experience. So, while the hotel is a mile or two off the tarred road, you will have a good level of comfort.

It is hoped to finalise numbers etc by July, if you are interested and have not yet registered with Paul EI2CA, paul@comma.ie, do so straight away.

IRTS Award Winners - AGM 2006

Arup Cup	Services to the Hobby or the Society	Tony McNally EI7GI
Collins Cup	Services to the Hobby or the Society	Leslie Long EI4DU
Conway Cup	Services to the Hobby or the Society	EI2CA, EI7CD & EI8BP
Folan Shield	Home Construction	No entry
Kevin Freeney Trophy	Home Construction	Willie Long EI6AI
Sheila Piper Cup	Services to the Radio News & Echo Ireland	John Ronan EI7IG
Presidents Cup	Outstanding contribution to the workings of the Society	Joe Ryan EI7GY
Ian Morris Memorial Trophy	Short Wave Listener Award	No entry
IRTS DX Trophy	Leasing EI Single Operator in IOTA Contest	Enda Broderick EI2II
Hal Hodgens Key	Leading EI operator in the 12 Hr CW IOTA Contest	Peter Morrison EI9ES
IOTA Trophy	Leading EJ station in the IOTA Contest	Bere Island Group EJ2MT
Pete Daly Cup	Open Section CW Field Day	East Cork Group EI7M
Paddy Smyth Cup	Restricted Section CW Field Day	Shannon Basin Group EI3Z
Paddy Daly Microphone	Open Section SSB Field Day	Not competed for
IRTS HF Shield	Restricted Section SSB Field Day	Dalkey Island Group EI1DD
Thomond Trophy	Open Section VHF/UHF Field Day	Southern Network RTE EI9E
Shandon Trophy	Restricted Section VHF/UHF Field Day	Tipperary Group EI7T
Tom Donnelan Cup	Leading EI SO entry in the CQWW CW Contest	Wieslaw Kosinski SP4Z
EI7IQ 6m Shield	EI's leading operator on 6 Metres during 2005	Charles Coughlan EI5FK
EI7IQ 4m Shield	EI's leading operator on 6 Metres during 2005	Dave Court EI3IO

RSQ signal reporting to replace RST for HF digital modes

There is a proposal to replace RST signal reporting with a different format for use with digital modes.

The IARU Region 1 Conference September 2005 recommended that RSQ (Readability, Strength, Quality) replace the traditional RST reporting format for HF digital modes.

This new format provides an opportunity for operators to give more meaningful signal reports when for example operating the popular PSK31 mode and is destined to become part of the Region 1 HF Managers Handbook.

The RSQ report description, IARU recommendation and other supporting information can be found at <http://rsq-info.net/> Articles and news can be found here at <http://rsq-info.net/IARU-Region-1-recommendation.html>

A dedicated RSQ group has been established at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rsq_signal_reporting/ to facilitate further discussion and debate.

To receive the latest news/articles etc on the RSQ reporting project please join the mailing list at <http://www.rsq-info.net/Mailing-list.html>

We welcome distribution of this information to your membership and affiliated radio clubs.

73, Graeme VK3BGH

Spring 2 Metre Counties Contest

There was a good turnout in the 2 metres counties contest, which was held on Easter Monday.

Despite wet and windy conditions in most of the country, quite a few portable stations were active: these included the Tipperary Club EI7T/P in Tipperary, the Shannon Basin Club EI2SBC/P in Longford, Peter EI4HX/P in Cavan, Denis EI6HB/P in Cork, the MRG club EI2MRG/P in Mayo, Kerry Radio Group EI1KARG/P in Kerry, the Church Island Group MN0LBA/P in Derry and Joe EI7GY/P in Laois.

Participants noted a higher than usual number of stations operating SSB, a welcome comeback for the mode that dominated the contest just a few years ago, but which had fallen in popularity in recent years, as FM participation increased.

Letter to the Editor....

SWLs and Contests

Dear Dave

I was very disappointed that there was no mention of SWL participation when the New Year EI 80 metre contest was announced and no mention in the aftermath if indeed any SWLs took part.

There are several hundred of us out here - and that's just IRTS members.

We were not invited to the party.

In the last edition of Echo Ireland we heard of the CQIR 75th anniversary contest in 2007 and, once again, not a word about SWL involvement.

Two valid points, I hope you agree?

But before I start to sound like one of "Maggie's Moaning Minnies" may I add that it is easier to get QSL confirmation from KG4, Guantanamo Bay than from an SWL report to the average EI station.

I expect our old reliable Morse Tappers will say, "Come on Peter, we've modernised the license exam - go for your 'ticket' !"

Perhaps I will but, for now, please acknowledge the SWLs at the 'grass roots'!

We are part of the IRTS and pay our dues too!

73, gud DX and **PSE QSL!**

Peter Mac Dougall - EI 299

Individual Operating Award Winners at the 2006 IRTS A.G.M.

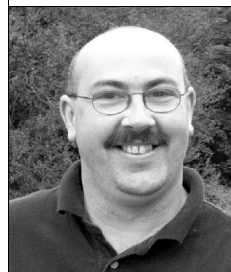
The Tom Donellan Cup
CQWW CW

Wieslaw Kosinski
EI/SP4Z



The IRTS DX Cup
IOTA Single-Op

Enda Broderick
EI2II



The Hal Hodgens Key
IOTA 12 Hour CW

Peter Morrison
EI9ES



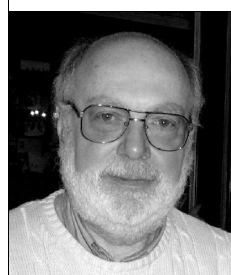
The EI7IQ 6 Metre Shield
Leading 6m Op.

Thos Caffrey
EI2JD



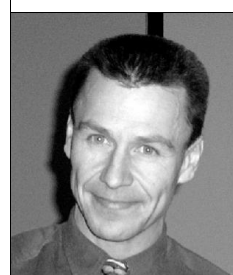
The EI7IQ 4 Metre Shield
Leading 4m Op.

Dave Court
EI3IO



The Slievenamon Shield
70cm FM Activity

Hugh O'Donnell
EI2HI



Dublin Mini-Marathon

On Monday the 5th June 2006, the Terenure Radio club is providing an AREN network coverage for the Dublin women's mini marathon 2006

If you want to take part in this special event all you require is a valid call sign, a 2m rig for mobile or portable use.

If interested, please make contact with George Adjaye EI2CPB on 086-2586103 or email adjayeg@dcu.ie

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The Shannon Basin Radio Club holds it's meetings in the Royal Hotel, Roscommon on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 8.30 p.m.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Contest Calendar

May 2006

27/27th	0001-2359	CQWW WPX Contest	CW
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June 2006

3/4th	1500-1459	IARU Region 1 CW Field Day	CW
10th	0000-2400	Portugal Day Contest	SSB
17/18th	0000-2400	All Asian DX Contest	CW
24/25th	1200-1200	H.M. The King of Spain Contest	SSB
24/25th	1200-1200	Ukrainian DX Digi Contest	RTTY/PSK31
24/25th	1400-1400	Marconi Memorial Contest	CW
24/25th	1800-2100	ARRL Field Day	All

July 2006

1st	0000-2359	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW/SSB
1/2nd	1400-1400	VHF/UHF Field Day	CW/SSB
8/9th	1200-1200	IARU HF World Championship	CW/SSB
29/30th	1200-1200	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW/SSB

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/
SM3CER Contest Service	http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/

2006 80m Counties Contest Results

	QSOs	Counties	Points
SSB Fixed			
EI9HQ, Declan Lennon	90	27	8748
EI2JD, Thos Caffrey	81	26	8034
EI5FK, Charles Coughlan	81	24	7728
EI7CD, Sean Nolan	80	26	7436
EI9HX, Pat O'Connor	76	25	6850
EI7CC, Peter Ball	66	24	5832
EI1CS, Finbarr Buckley	61	24	5616
EI7GK, Padraig O'Meachair	62	24	5400
EI3ENB, Paul Norris	54	23	4761
EI2V, Irish Air Corps Signals	52	21	4462
EI3FFB, Eamonn Kavanagh	53	23	4255
M0MCX, Calum McCormick	51	20	4080
EI6IW, John Edgeworth	46	22	4070
EI3GDB, Jim Hayes	46	22	3982
EI5IH, Gerard Richardson	48	22	3960
EI2GFB, Declan Mayock	37	26	3848
EI9FVB, Declan Horan	45	21	3654
EI2CL, Mike McNamara	40	21	3297
GD4HOX, Ted Brooks	35	20	2800
EI8JR, James Armstrong	30	15	1665
G4DZL, Jim Smith	24	16	1536
EI4JL, Mick Gorman	25	15	1515
EI8BFB, Patrick Geoghan	23	14	1176
EI9JO, John Gill	16	9	576
G0MRH, Ron Horsley	14	9	504
M0COP, Pete Wesley	9	8	288
SSB Portable			
EI2MRG, MRG Experimenters	73	24	6720
EI6JK, Mark Condon	67	24	5856
EI3JB, Nicky Madigan	65	22	5324
SSB/CW Fixed			
EI4BZ, Dave Moore	103	28	9856
EI2CA, Paul Martin	87	24	8346
EI4CF, Niall Foley	85	26	8138
EI0CZ, Brendan Kilmartin	81	25	7200
EI2BB, Jim Bartlett	80	24	7104
EI8IU, Brian Canning	71	24	6312
EI7BA, John Tait	47	25	4375
G0MTN, Lee Volante	47	22	4136
GI4SRQ, George Mc Hugh	48	22	3894
MI5MTC, Michael Clarke	26	18	1872
SSB/CW Portable			
EI7GY, Joe Ryan	76	23	6440

Check Logs received from John Williams EI7JG, Paddy Maher EI3AV, Hugh Forde EI6CPB and Hugh Duffy EI3FV
Thanks to Paul EI5DI for assistance checking Cabrillo logs.

**The 2007 80m Counties contest will be held on
January 1st next from 1200 - 1500**

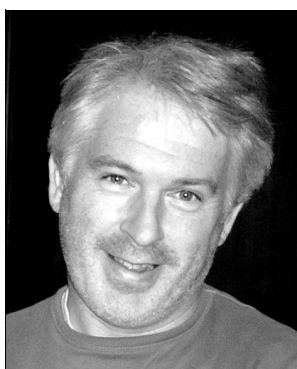
IRTS 80m Counties Contest Winners 2006



Declan EI9HQ
80m 2006
SSB Fixed



Dave EI4BZ
80m 2006
CW/SSB Fixed



EI2MRG (Joe EI3IX)
80m 2006
SSB Portable



Joe EI7GY
80m 2006
CW/SSB Portable

New EI 6 Metre Beacon

The first 6 Metre beacon in EI was put on the air on Saturday May 13th from a site on the historic "Hill of Allen" near Newbridge in Co. Kildare. The locator of this site is IO63NF.

Congratulations to the team led by Tony Moore EI7BMB. Brendan EI6IZ built the beacon and the site was provided by Mark EI9IB who also carried out the rigging duties assisted by Thos EI2JD. involved in the effort.

The beacon is on 50.052 MHz and the rig is a Maxar 80 with a CW keyer. The aerial is a 2.2dbi vertical and the power is 25 watts.

It was put on the air for SWR checks at 13.27 on the 13th May and was immediately spotted by EI6IZ and G0JHC. Charlie EI5FK in Cork was not long behind them.

Initial reports are very encouraging on tropo and MS and on the Sunday morning it made its first E's hop into DL and OE.

Reports to tony@satellite.ie

Full report and pictures in the next issue.

Members Advertisements

For Sale:

Icom IC-R7000 VHF/UHF Receiver, 25-2000 MHz. remote Control + remote recorder..... €450.00
 Kenwood TH28E 2 Metre Handheld. Tx 144-146 MHz. Rx 136 - 174 Mhz & 43 - 440 MHz. New battery plus charger. Boxed at €150.00
 MFJ 969 ATU Versa Tuner. 160m to 6m, Never used €150.00
 LP-1300 Log Periodic + Light Rotor 100-1300 MHz. Tx-Rx €150.00
 2 Metre Linear - 30 Watts out €50.00
 Zetagi SWR/Power Meter: 3-200 MHz IMP 50-75 Ohms €50.00
 Joe EI4GX QTHR. Phone 085-1601372

For Sale: Telrex 6 Element HF Tribander with balun. Ring 0906-474726 or email nfmulvihill@eircom.net

For Sale: 1.2 Meter diameter solid (glass fibre) with back mounting bracket. This is a professional dish used at 35 GHz. €50.00 (with LPD (from 70 cm to 13 cm) with de-icing)
 10 Element MM antenna for 144 MHz. very robust and used for Contest only. €50.00.

Professional ITT heavy duty RF Power Amplifier 400W p.e.p. for 144 MHz., used for Contest only €500.00.

Home made EME RF power Amplifier with 3CX1500. The valve is new and never used with socket and chimney. The 144 MHz circuits are of high quality and silver coated. All parts are all present but needs finishing. This includes a transformer for the HVS etc. €300.00

Rohde and Swartz Signal Generator, SMLU: 20 MHz to 1000MHz output 1W. Internal DC power defect and needs repair: Comes with documentation. Additionally the SMLU-Z is a sweeper unit to control the SMLU is included. Only as set sold: €300.00

Rohde and Swartz SWOB 4 in working condition. Sweeps from 20 MHz to 1000MHz with markers. includes a built in CRT to display the Transmission and return loss. €600.00.

Plus lots more professional test equipment including HP Spectrum analyzer, R&S 1 GHz synthesizer and ham radio gear, please wait for next issue or contact me for details.

Contact Peter on 086-8956779 (Cork City)

National 4 Metre Activity Nights

First Tuesday each month

70.2625 MHz FM

2000-2200

Reports to ei3ix@eircom.net



Reading the Mail By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #41 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 25 January to 31 March 2006.

The summer-time doldrums of 2005 appear to have lasted indefinitely and therefore, in view of generally poor band conditions, there is not a lot to report.

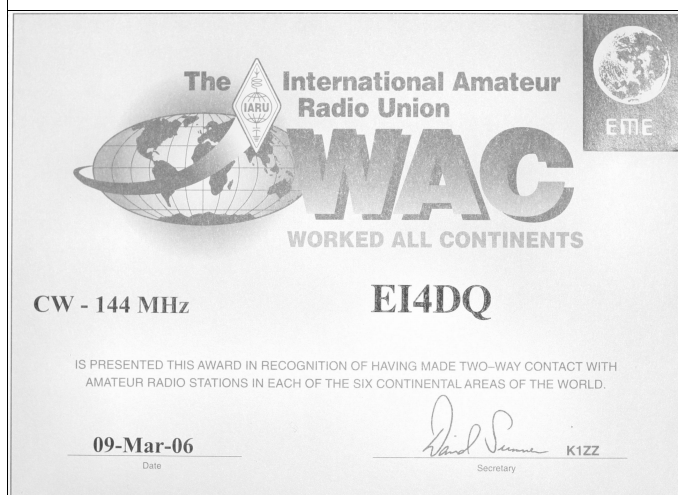
For the record, small packets (less than 1 kg) came from ARRL x2, EDR, G3TXF, the LABRE divisions of DF, RS and SC, SRAL, TA3YJ, and the VK5 and VR2-bureaus. Nevertheless, making up for the small number of packets, I was well occupied with heavier lots that came from RAAG, REF, SSA and UARL (2kg each), PZK and RSGB (3.9 kg each).

Cards from the following were thought worthy of mention: A52CDX, C91EP, EM0ITU, EM80IARU, EZ8CW, H55/F2JD, HS0ZDZ, J48TTT, SB700J, SD5DS, SI9AM, SX2A, SX6A, SY2004MNL, TC2K4J, TP1CE, W1AW/5, W1AW/0, YI9GT, YI9ZF, ZA/K7ZV, ZW10AS, 3A0CE, 3DA0RN, 5H3/SM1TDE, 5Z4YT1CS, 7Q7MM, 8S0ITU, 9G5FD, and 9N7WE.

For IOTA chasers there were cards from C93DY, CE0Z/OH2MXS, CY9A, EM5UIA, FG/A15P, FO/F6COW, FP/VE7SV, GB5FI, HF0QF, HK0/KR4DA, J48SI, J42004/SP5MXZ, JW0HZ, MM0MWW, OH0I/OJO, OJ0SM, S9BB, SX9G, V73AZ, VP8SDX, VP9/A15P, VQ9LW, KD6WW/VY0, WP4U, WH8/F6EXV, 3B9MM, 3B9C, 5Z4YT1CS/M, 7S3I and 8S9M.

Congratulations to all recipients. Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL





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Yaesu FT840, 0-30MHz, All Mode, 100w, FM option, New..
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€1,199.00
Icom IC707 Budget priced HF Transceiver. 100w €499.00
Icom IC7000. Latest Icom Multiband.
Display model..... €1,399.00
Icom IC706MKII. HF + 6m + 2m inc. DSP €749.00
Icom IC756 large LCD Screen, auto ATU, HF + 6m ..999.00
Kenwood TS50s. Mobile, all mode 100w HF rig€75.00
Yaesu FT 847. HF + 6m + 2m + 70cm all mode base... €199
Yaesu FT857. HF + 6m + 2m + 70cm Mobile rig with separation kit€699.00
Alinco DX70 HF + 6m Mobile 100w + 10w ...€75.00
Yaesu FT1000MP/AC version. Top class radio,
Auto ATU etc€1499.00
Yaesu FT1000 Mark V Field. Boxed, mint condition.
100w, Auto ATU€1599.00
Kenwood TS2000, HF + 6m + 2m + 70cm also auto ATU,
boxed. Mint €1499.00
Yaesu FT817. HF/6m/2m/70cm 5w portable all mode €599.00
Kenwood TS440SAT 0-30MHz Auto ATU.
Private sale €399.00
Kenwood TS570D. DSP, Auto ATU, 100 watts.
Very good condition. €899.00

Shortwave Receivers

Icom ICR-75. 0-60 MHz all mode with DSP option. ..€749.00
Icom ICR-75, same as above with DSP fitted. €799.00
Icom IC-8500. Top class 0-2000 MHz all mode receiver,
rare, used €1,399.00
JRC NRD545DSP. Top of the range in SW Receiver.
Read the reviews. Cost new €2,800. Now only €1,499.00
AOR 7030. Award Winning Rx. Boxed, mint condx .€749.00
AOR 5000. All mode, 0-2600MHz. Top class Rx ... €1499.00
Yaesu FRG8800. 0-30MHz also VHF Converter€349.00
Lowe HF225. 0-30MHz, AM/FM option €349.00
Yaesu FRG100. 0-30MHz. All Mode with PSU.... €499.00

VHF/UHF Transceivers

Yaesu FT736R Base station 2m/70cm with 6m fitted €999.00
Kenwood TM241E 50w 2m mobile. No bracket/book ..€149
Alinco DJ190 2m handheld with drop in charger €129.00

Icom IC821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multimode, Mint .. €899
Kenwood TR751E, 2m SSB rig, 25 watts. €449.00
Kenwood TMD700E. Boxed. Mint.
Top class dualbander €499.00
Alinco DR135. 50 watt 2m mobile €189.00
Alinco DR605 50/35w dual band mobile €249.00
Yaesu FT7800 Dualband 50/35w mobile,
1055 memories. CTCSS, DCS. €299.00
Yaesu FT8800. A true dualbander with repeater function.
CTCSS €299.00
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500 memories, alpha tagging. Demo model. €349.00
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and in mint condition €599.00
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AOR 8200. 0-2036 MHz. 1000 mems .. Nicads/Chgr €299.00
AOR 8200. 0-2046 MHz. 1000 mems .Nicads/Chgr €349.00
Icom PCR1000 with DSP. Computer control. 0-1300MHz
with SSB rx. Boxed, as new€375.00
AOR5000. 0-2600MHz. All mode. Top class rx ... €1,399.00
Bearcat 3300XLT. 25-1300MHz. Nicads & charger ..€249.00
Yupiteru MUY7300 1000 memories. All mode ... €225.00
Grundig SAT 800 B grade. One only €599.00
Bearcat 220 XLT 66-956 MHz with gaps, 200 memories,
Nicads and charger €159.00
Alinco DJ-X2000, 100 kHz to 2100 MHz, 2000 memories,
frequency counter, digital recording, CTCSS decoder/tone
scan, drop in charger. Cost €675.00 new, now €399.00
Yaesu VR120, 0-1300 MHz, shirt pocket size scanner. .. €179

Station Accessories

Watson W-30AM 30-35 Amp PSU with twin meters, volts
and amps, 0-15v. €149.00
West Mountain Radio Rigblaster Pro, all mode decoder,
Demo model. €279.00
Global AT2000 SWL ATU. €99.00
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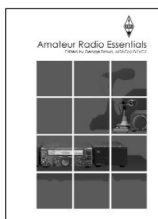


10% discount for IRTS members on Amateur Radio books.

As an extra benefit of membership the IRTS has entered into a special arrangement with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) for IRTS members to get discounted amateur radio books. This dedicated service is based online so is available to you 24 hours a day. The books are delivered by standard post direct to your door and attract a 10% discount for IRTS members (some exceptions apply). The range is wide with titles being stocked from the RSGB, ARRL, DARC and many others.

Try it today!

NEW



Amateur Radio Essentials

Edited by George Brown,
M5ACN/G1VCY

Unmatched in its scope and relevance, this is a book for everyone, beginner and old hand alike, who is interested in amateur radio.

Amateur Radio Essentials aims to answer frequently-asked questions that the editor has fielded on the telephone while working for the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

The subject matter covers everything from Rho to Radiation Resistance, from Filtering to Fractal Aerials, and from Solar Indices to Spurious Signals. The content is divided into six broad sections covering a huge range of amateur radio material. Beginners can find basic information about most of the things that matter in amateur radio, whilst old hands can find data that other textbooks often don't include. Edited from articles originally published in the RSGB house journal, *RadCom*, this is a reference book and guide to the FAQs of amateur radio.

Size: 240x174mm, 280 p, ISBN: 1-905086-07-5
Non Member's Price €23.50 plus p&p

IRTS Member's Price €21 plus p&p



1940s Amateur Radio Special Edition 6 Book Set

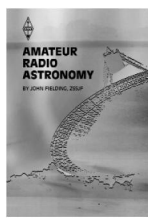
Shortly after WWII the RSGB produced a hugely popular series of booklets detailing various aspects of amateur radio. This series of books published in 1947 - 1949 covered amateur radio as it was then.

The RSGB is now re-issuing these booklets, in their original form as a special edition. Each book is a gem being an historical encapsulation of electronics as it was and what radio amateurs were doing with it. The set contains 6 booklets with a nearly 450 pages of fascinating material. Not only is this collection a historical master class in amateur radio, it provides an ideal understanding of the way the past has shaped the direction of current technology.

Books include: VHF Technique, Transmitter Interference, Valve Technique, Receivers, Microwave Technique, Simple Transmitting Equipment

Size: 184x120mm, ISBN: 1-905086-14-8
Non Member's Price €23.50 plus p&p

IRTS Member's Price €21 plus p&p



Amateur Radio Astronomy

By John Fielding, ZS5JF

For anyone with a passing interest in radio astronomy this book is a revelation. Written by a radio amateur, *Amateur Radio Astronomy* shows how much radio amateurs have contributed to the science of radio astronomy and how the average amateur can make and set up equipment to study the signals coming from space.

Amateur Radio Astronomy covers in depth the subject of receiving radio signals from outer space. Starting with a historical perspective of Radio Astronomy this book covers all that is needed to become active in this area. The book covers what parameters are required for the antenna and receiver through practical low noise amplifiers. The reader is also provided with straight forward advice on assembling a receiving station along with practical information to put together your own station. A practical design for a "hydrogen line receiver" is also included. This design is aimed at 4120MHz the frequency focused on by the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence programme (SETI) as the most likely on which information would be conveyed from another galaxy.

This book is the result of period of research stretching back over the last ten years and provides a work that has no equivalent published elsewhere. The author has achieved a great balance between historical narrative and technical information. *Amateur Radio Astronomy* is not only 'a great read' but a practical reference for this fascinating topic. This book is thoroughly recommended to anyone interested in astronomy and the practical application of radio technology.

Size: 240x174mm, 320 p, ISBN: 1-905086-16-4
Non Member's Price €25 plus p&p

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